



Members of the Human Services Committee, Good Afternoon. My name is Pat Bourne and I am Executive Director of SARAH, Inc., a private not for profit agency serving over 500 children and adults with intellectual and other disabilities in communities throughout southern and eastern Connecticut. I also serve on the Board of Directors for CCPA, the Connecticut Community Providers Association.

I am also honored to have been appointed by Speaker Donovan as co-chair with Senator Harris of the Legislative Advisory Committee for Reimbursements under Programs Administered by the Department of Developmental Services.

This Committee was appointed pursuant to Section 57 of PA 2051 passed in the last legislative session. This legislation calls for a study of the many changes the Department of Developmental Services proposed regarding the reimbursement methodology for private providers. The committee is charged with issuing a report and recommendations by January, 2011.

This committee is vitally important because it creates a mechanism for formal stakeholder input and legislative oversight of major policy changes proposed by DDS. It was understood that the current DDS reimbursement system to private providers would remain in place while the Committee completed its work.

Contrary to the legislative intent, the Department of Developmental Services initiated serious and significant changes in the reimbursement system to providers effective February 1, 2010.

Senate Bill 282 – An ACT CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ATTENDANCE-BASED RATE SYSTEM BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES – prohibits the Department of Developmental Services from implementing an attendance-based, fee-for-service reimbursement system for services before January 1, 2011, or the date the current legislative advisory committee completes its work.

We know that the current fiscal crisis affects everyone. The community provider system has been underfunded for decades and has not had an increase in three years. The provider community is willing to work with the department in good faith to meet these many challenges. The Department's actions conflicts with and circumvents the legislative committee process. We ask your support of Senate Bill 282 and allow the existing committee to carry out its charge.

I also ask your support of H. B. No. 5245 (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE PRIVATIZATION OF GROUP HOMES.

You know the work of the many private providers serving thousands of people with intellectual and other disabilities in our community and throughout the state. You know that community providers provide high quality, cost-effective services built on a solid foundation of well- trained and dedicated staff.